

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0072] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q1

[0072] According to the example of the control illustrated in FIG. 1, at least one of the "neutral control", the control of reducing the torque capacity of the torque converter 2 and the control of reducing the torque capacity of the clutch 54B is performed if the engine 50 is to be operated because at least the second stop condition is not met of the overall stop request, i.e., a request for stopping the engine 50 based on a condition other than the state of operation of the ignition key 63A. Therefore, the load on the engine 50 can be reduced, and the amount of fuel consumed by the engine 50 can be reduced. It should be noted herein that the execution of the "neutral control" in step S4 while the first stop condition is met after the determination in step S3 is positive does not give the driver a sense of discomfort since the first stop condition being met means that the driver intends to stop the vehicle. When the determination in step S3 is negative, the control routine ends as shown in FIG. 1.